



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 3000
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
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March 14, 2014

Mr. Douglas Frasier
VPDES Permit Writer, Senior II
Certified Nutrient Management Planner
Regional Toxics Management Program Coordinator
Department of Environmental Quality
Northern Regional Office
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Subject: City of Alexandria, Virginia – VPDES Permit No. VA0087068

Dear Mr. Frasier:

In accordance with the requirements of Part II.G of our discharge permit, and as described to you in the City's email on March 11, 2014, this letter reports the dry weather overflow (DWO) incident that occurred on Tuesday, March 11, 2014.

During the City's bimonthly inspections of the CSS outfalls, a DWO was observed at CSO 004 at 2:00PM by City staff. Maintenance crews were immediately notified who then arrived onsite at 2:15PM. The DWO was confirmed by visual observation of flow overtopping the weir between the primary and secondary siphon at Duke Street. At 2:30PM crews to perform combined space entry at the downstream siphon chamber arrived onsite and visual observation of the downstream siphon chamber indicated clogging of both siphons. The maintenance crews then proceeded to flush the siphons and remove debris from the sewers. The cause of the blockage was found to be excessive ragging that blocked the flow such that flows backed up into the upstream siphon chamber and overtop the weir to Outfall 004. The blockages were removed, which allowed the siphons to operate as designed. The DWO ended at 3:24PM as indicated by visual inspection of the weir structure. Although the actual discharge amount is unknown, it is estimated that approximately 840 gallons was discharged into Hooff's Run.

It is not clear what caused the excessive ragging at the Duke Street Siphon Chamber. Although it is not expected to occur again, the City is working with its maintenance staff to review its flushing procedures to prevent future blockages from the siphon chamber. The City will also

increase its routine inspections of this structure from bimonthly to weekly inspections for a period of at least 90 days.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Yours very truly,



Lalit Sharma, P.E., Division Chief
Infrastructure and Environmental Quality
Transportation & Environmental Services

c: Richard J Baier, P.E. Director, T&ES
William Skrabak, Deputy Director, T&ES
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